

TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE



**FISCAL NOTE**

**SB 2480 - HB 2480**

March 9, 2014

**SUMMARY OF BILL:** Creates the *Tennessee Licensure for Interpreters and Translators Act* (act). Creates a 9-member board, the Tennessee Licensure Board for Interpreters and Translators (board), to regulate professional interpreters and transliterators in this state. Specifies that the Board will, at the least, meet biannually. Authorizes the Board to set fees for licensure and permits. Specifies that licensees will be required to renew annually to perform as a professional interpreter or transliterator. Specifies qualification requirements of applicants, licensees, and permittees. Board members will not be compensated, but will receive reimbursements for necessary expenses incurred while performing duties required by the Board. Creates the Tennessee Licensure Board for Interpreters and Translators Fund (ITF). All reimbursement expenses shall be paid out of the fund. All licensure and permit fee revenue shall be placed into the ITF.

Requires, after March 2015, any person who is paid for services performed as an interpreter or transliterator, to be licensed by the board. Requires any individual who is not paid for services as an interpreter or transliterator to obtain a permit from the board by January 2015. Creates a Class C misdemeanor offense to practice as an interpreter or transliterator without first acquiring the applicable license or permit from the board. This act shall take effect July 1, 2015 and the provisions of the bill will expire on June 30, 2018.

**ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:**

**Increase State Revenue - \$26,800/ITF/FY15-16 thru FY17-18**

**Increase State Expenditures - \$6,900/ITF/FY15-16 thru FY17-18**

**Other Fiscal Impact - The Tennessee Licensure Board for Interpreters and Translators may increase or decrease the licensure and permit fees in order to provide sufficient revenue to pay all the costs and expenses of the Board. Any additional administrative costs incurred will be paid out of the ITF.**

Assumptions:

- The bill does not take effect until July 1, 2015 and expires on June 30, 2018; therefore, it is assumed that all expenditures and revenue will be realized in FY15-16 through FY17-18.

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- According to the Tennessee Association of the Deaf, there are approximately 153 interpreters and transliterators in this state who are certified by the Registry of Interpreters.
- All 153 will either purchase a license or permit.
- Annual licensure and renewals fees for licenses and permits will cost \$175.
- This will result in annual fee revenue of \$26,775 (153 x \$175).
- The nine-member board will meet quarterly.
- Members will receive expense reimbursements for gas (\$100), food (\$66), and lodging (\$122).
- It is estimated that three members will not claim any expenses per meeting.
- Expense reimbursements will total \$6,912 [(\$100 + \$66 + \$122) x 6 members x 4 meetings].
- The bill does not state what department will handle the administrative duties of this board. It is assumed that if a department is asked to assist with the administrative duties of the board, such duties can be handled within the department's existing resources.
- Any necessary administrative costs will be paid out of the ITF.
- There will not be a sufficient number of prosecutions for state or local government to experience any significant increase in revenue or expenditures.
- A small increase in cases in the court system, which will result in additional state and local government expenditures for processing the cases and additional state and local government revenue from fees, taxes and costs collected. These expenditures and revenue are estimated to be not significant.

## **CERTIFICATION:**

The information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.



Lucian D. Geise, Executive Director

/jdb